Typing, Keyboarding, Speech-to-Text

I looked for a speech-to-text program that would be simple to use without my having to learn a lot of complex new stuff to begin working with it. The program I found is simple. I easily mix composition of text by voice and revision, as I go, by keyboard and voice. I downloaded this program, read a few simple instructions and began to work on this essay.

I began learning how to type in my junior year of high school about 70 years ago. I took the class because typing was an available class, and I needed another class. I thought I might make some use of typing, eventually.

From the beginning, I was lousy at typing, probably because I didn't have an immediate goal of doing anything requiring typing and because the class was boring. We used uninteresting material to practice typing, and I didn't have enough imagination to suggest we use other material nor to find interesting material to use myself. I passed the class, but just barely.

I began writing some poems and a few attempts at short fiction, several years after I finished high school. I still didn't do well at typing, and I didn't invest any time in practicing to get better.

I had other things to do, and none of them included typing.

A few times through all the years I've been writing, I used my time to earn enough extra money to hire someone else to do the typing required to turn my hand-written manuscripts into typed manuscripts for submission to possible publishers, but mostly, I've muddled through on my own, slowly typing and using lots of white-out, a liquid substance for whiting out mistakes so they could be typed over with correct letters or figures.

A significant step into easier production of readable manuscripts came into our culture with the phasing in of computers and printers and the phasing out of typewriters. I was, and am, as lousy at keyboarding as I was at typing, but endless possibilities for correcting mistakes on screen combine with my habit of usually revising my writing extensively, improve my writing, and save time and much paper and gallons of white-out.

Now I move into spoken-word-to-text. It is too early to see how well that will work. Problems with parts of my sound

system slow down my change from keyboarding to speech-to-text assisted by keyboarding.

    I wait for various parts to arrive to complete my voice-to-text set-up and blend it into what I already have. When I find out how well I work with this new combination of dictating and keyboarding, I will report here.